

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 . (Currently Amended) An optical amplifying device comprising a slab of material which is [[side-]] pumped via a side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material in-use to provide a gain region, the device comprising path definition means for adjacent said side face, the device defining a path through the gain region for optical radiation to be amplified, wherein the path definition means is arranged such that said path comprises comprising at least two, spatially different, grazing incidence spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in [[the]] said gain region.

2 . (Original) A device according to Claim 1 wherein the grazing incidence reflections include reflections of not more than 20 degrees.

3 . (Original) A device according to Claim 1 wherein the grazing incidence reflections include reflections of not more than 10 degrees.

4 . (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the gain region has more than one gain area, and the reflections occur in different respective gain areas.

5 . (Original) A device according to Claim 4 wherein at least two gain areas of the gain region are different spatial areas of a common gain region.

6 . (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 4 wherein at least two gain areas are each provided by different respective pump sources.

7 . (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, provided with feedback to the gain region enabling the device to lase in use so as to provide an optical source.

8 . (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein the path ~~definition~~ means comprises at least one mirror.

9 . (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein the path ~~definition~~ means comprises at least one surface of the slab of material.

10 . (Cancelled)

11 . (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the gain extraction associated with each grazing incidence reflection in the gain region is of a comparable magnitude.

12 . (Currently Amended) A method of amplifying optical radiation ~~which method~~ comprises passing the radiation through a side-pumped bounce amplifier along a path providing total internal reflection at grazing incidence at at least two spatially different locations on a side-pumped face of the amplifier comprising side-pumping a slab of material via side face thereof

with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material to provide a gain region adjacent said side face, and guiding said optical radiation along a path comprising at least two spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in said gain region..

13 . (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a first optical amplifying device comprising a slab of material which is [[side-]] pumped via a side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material in use to provide a gain region; the device comprising path definition means for adjacent said side face, the device defining a path through the gain region for optical radiation to be amplified, wherein the path definition means is arranged such that said path comprises comprising at least two, spatially different, grazing incidence spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in [[the]] said gain region; and

a second optical amplifying device for receiving and amplifying device for receiving and amplifying radiation output by the optical source comprising a slab of material which is [[side-]] pumped via a side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material in use to provide a gain region; the device comprising path definition means for adjacent said side face, the device defining a path through the gain region for optical radiation to be amplified, wherein the path definition means is arranged such that said path comprises comprising at least two, spatially different, grazing incidence spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in [[the]] said gain region;

wherein said first and second optical amplifying devices share a common slab of material.

14. (New) A device as claimed in claim 7, in which a common slab of material both amplifies said optical radiation and receives and amplifies radiation output by said optical source.